

MISCELLANY

Under this department are ordinarily grouped: News Items; Letters; Special Articles; Twenty-five Years Ago column; California Board of Medical Examiners; and other columns as occasion may warrant. Items for the News column must be furnished by the fifteenth of the preceding month. For Book Reviews, see index on the front cover, under Miscellany.

NEWS

Coming Meetings

American Medical Association, New York, June 10-14, 1940. Olin West, M. D., Secretary, 535 North Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois.

California Medical Association, Hotel Del Coronado, Coronado, May 6-9, 1940. George H. Kress, M. D., Secretary, 450 Sutter Street, San Francisco.

Nevada Medical Association, Reno, September 22 and 23, 1939. Horace J. Brown, M. D., Secretary, P. O. Box 689, Reno, Nevada.

Medical Broadcasts*

Los Angeles County Medical Association

The radio broadcast program for the Los Angeles County Medical Association for the month of August is as follows:

Thursday, August 3—KECA, 9:45 a. m., The Road of Health.

Saturday, August 5—KFI, 10:30 a. m., The Road of Health; KFAC, 11:30 a. m., Your Doctor and You.

Thursday, August 10—KECA, 9:45 a. m., The Road of Health.

Saturday, August 12—KFI, 10:30 a. m., The Road of Health; KFAC, 11:30 a. m., Your Doctor and You.

Thursday, August 17—KECA, 9:45 a. m., The Road of Health.

Saturday, August 19—KFI, 10:30 a. m., The Road of Health; KFAC, 11:30 a. m., Your Doctor and You.

Thursday, August 24—KECA, 9:45 a. m., The Road of Health.

Saturday, August 26—KFI, 10:30 a. m., The Road of Health; KFAC, 11:30 a. m., Your Doctor and You.

Thursday, August 31—KECA, 9:45 a. m., The Road of Health.

Treadway to Survey Care of Mental Patients in State.

Announcement that Dr. Walter Lewis Treadway, assistant surgeon-general of the United States Public Health Service, has arrived to spend a year at the University of California Medical School for the purpose of making an exhaustive survey of the care of mental patients both at the medical school and throughout the State, was recently made by President Robert Gordon Sproul.

The survey is part of an examination of all of the country's major public health facilities and activities that the Public Health Service is making in the interests of greater integration and effectiveness. As the chief psychiatrist in the service and one of the most outstanding authorities on mental disorders and treatment in the country, Doctor Treadway has been given the task of directing the psychiatric phases of the general examination.

At the medical school Doctor Treadway is expected to make a special study of the advances that have been made in mental case care and treatments in the school's psychiatric division in the past few years.

Doctor Treadway is a graduate of the Barnes Medical College, where he received his M.D. in 1907. Before entering government service he was assistant physician in the Jacksonville State Hospital, Illinois, and clinical psychiatrist in the Illinois Psychiatric Institute.

* County societies giving medical broadcasts are requested to send information as soon as arranged (stating station, day, date and hour and subject) to CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, 450 Sutter Street, San Francisco, for inclusion in this column.

Pacific Coast Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology.—

The dates for the next meeting of the Pacific Coast Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology have been changed from October 4-7, 1939, to November 8-11, 1939, the meeting to be held in Portland, Oregon. For information, write to T. Floyd Bell, M.D., Secretary-Treasurer, Oakland, Calif.

Special Meeting July 13.—A special meeting of the San Francisco Chapter of the Public Health League of California was held on Thursday, July 13, 1939, at the Veneto Restaurant, corner of Mason and Bay streets, San Francisco. Executive Secretary Ben Read gave a report of the recent legislative activities at Sacramento.

Charles A. Noble, Jr., M.D., secretary, reported an excellent attendance.

Gonadotropic Hormone Produces Giant Rat Litters.

The gonadotropic hormone taken from pregnant mares and injected into immature rats brings these animals to sexual maturity within three days and causes them to produce living litters far larger than those of untreated rats.

This has been shown in experiments conducted on the Davis campus of the University of California by Dr. Harold H. Cole, associate professor of animal husbandry.

One rat in Doctor Cole's collection produced twenty-three living young, while another had thirty-three implanted fetuses. Both these rats had been injected with the hormone. The average litter among the injected rats was seventeen. The average litter for the untreated rats was only eleven, while the largest living litter produced by these rats was nineteen.

Both the purified extracts of the hormone and the pregnant mare serum which contains the hormone have been used. Studies of the effect of this hormone on rats are expected to lead to new discoveries concerning animal reproduction and possibly open a new method of treating animals whose fecundity is low.

American Congress of Physical Therapy.—The eighteenth annual scientific and clinical session of the American Congress of Physical Therapy will be held September 5, 6, 7, and 8, 1939, at the Hotel Pennsylvania, New York City. Preceding these sessions the Congress will conduct an intensive instruction seminar in physical therapy for physicians and technicians—August 30 and 31, September 1 and 2.

Physicians are urged to plan their vacation for these periods and bring their families to New York for the World's Fair. Ample time has been provided for, during the convention, to visit the Fair and to enjoy the various activities of America's metropolis.

The instruction seminar should prove of unusual interest to physicians and technicians. The clinics, which comprise half of the schedule, make this course outstanding for its practical value. As in the past, outstanding clinicians and teachers will participate. Registration is limited to one hundred and is by application only. For information concerning the seminar and preliminary program of the convention proper, address American Congress of Physical Therapy, 30 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago.

Child Nutrition Seen as Nation's Great Investment.—

All work and no play may make Jack a dull boy, but even a program which includes large doses of both will not produce a well-educated child unless he is well and wisely fed, declares Dr. Richard Arthur Bolt, director of the Cleveland, Ohio, Child Health Association, who is in Los Angeles as a visiting member of the University of California Summer Session faculty.

"A hungry and sick child cannot be educated properly," Doctor Bolt points out. "Our schools have found it necessary to finance extra feeding, an extremely important measure at present and one which should be continued. Any investment put into feeding our school children will pay ample dividends in the next few years. Good nutrition is the basis of all health measures in the growing child. Food of the right quality is relatively cheap now, and a balanced diet comparatively easy to assemble."

The well-fed child's daily diet should include at least one quart of good milk, a fresh greens and vegetable salad, tomatoes, whole grain cereal, butter and eggs, declares Doctor Bolt.

U. C. Medical School Gives Wide Service.—

The Medical School of the University of California stands on the San Francisco campus of the University on Parnassus Avenue, stretching from First to Fourth Avenue. It is the major activity of the University Medical Center, where the Schools of Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy and Nursing carry on their activities in close proximity with the University Hospital, supplying 83,000 patient-day services, and the out-patient department, to which 185,000 visits are made each year by 35,000 individual patients, and the Hooper Foundation for Medical Research.

The purposes of the Medical School are to train effective physicians, fully competent to serve the sick and injured and also as a hospital to give aid to invalids and injured who are unable to pay physicians.

There is also the duty to develop new knowledge and to evaluate old knowledge about health and disease and to make this knowledge available through instruction, to medical students, undergraduate and postgraduate, and by publication to the scientific world and when possible, to the lay public.

Referred Service

As a state university medical school California also provides a referred service open to all physicians in the State. To this service the doctors send 3,104 persons every year for consultation. These are patients with obscure or complicated diseases, whom their physicians refer for aid to the various specialists of the University's medical and dental faculty. Such referred patients must be certified by their physicians as unable to pay for private professional aid.

The University Hospital of 330 beds was built in 1917 from funds donated by generous friends of the University. The out-patient building was built in 1933 and is one of the most modern institutions of its kind. It houses various out-patient clinics devoted to medicine and surgery and to their specialties, also the operative and the administrative units of the Schools of Dentistry and of Nursing as well as the Crummer Library of Medical History and a department of physiotherapy with a pool for the treatment of crippled children.

The University Hospital is too small to supply all the needs for student training but the staffs of the medical schools are commandeered to give the medical and surgical services needed by patients of the great San Francisco Hospital. Here, through the coöperation of Director of Health Dr. J. C. Geiger, medical students of the university may follow ministrations and teaching of their professors. . . — *San Francisco News*, June 17.

Pacific Association of Railway Surgeons.—The Thirty-seventh Annual Convention will be held in San Francisco on September 29 and 30, with headquarters at the Clift Hotel. As usual, the scientific sessions will be held on Friday and Saturday mornings. The customary luncheons and banquet will greet you. For program and information, write to W. T. Cummins, M.D., Secretary, in care of Southern Pacific Hospital, San Francisco.

Teaching Hospital Safe Place for Maternity Cases.—

An intensive study of births over an eleven-year period "very forcefully shows that a well staffed and managed teaching hospital, using conservative methods of treatment and checking results from time to time by efficiency studies, is an extremely safe place in which to have a baby." This is stated in a paper issuing from the division of obstetrics and gynecology of the University of California Hospital.

The report is a review of 10,708 obstetrical cases in the hospital, and shows maternal mortality rates which are much lower than the ten-year period preceding that covered in the study. The chief feature noted in the study is that a remarkably low mortality attended the method of Cesarean section developed in the hospital and the very free use of blood transfusions now used as preventive measures and not as a last resort, as in former years. For these reasons methods of delivery can be used in cases where unusual difficulty is being experienced. In former years other methods would have been attempted; procedures used only as a last resort and which were attended with high mortality to the child in a desperate attempt to save the mother's life.

The low maternal mortality rate has been obtained with an operative rate for delivery which is extremely low, it is pointed out. Cesarean section is never resorted to unless it is clearly indicated by every known related factor.

The report shows but twenty-one deaths in the 10,708 deliveries, or an average of only two a year. In this regard it is stated that many of the most serious cases are sent to the teaching hospital.

Vital Elements Shown at Work in Human Body.—

The manner in which the flow of the vital elements through the human body has been lighted up through the production of radioactive isotopes of those elements, to reveal or to check hidden disease, was detailed at the twenty-third annual meeting of the Pacific Division, American Association for the Advancement of Science by Dr. John H. Lawrence of the University of California Medical School, and the University's radiation laboratory.

Demonstrations of the manner in which the radioactive substances are deposited in both normal and diseased organs were made by Doctor Lawrence. Using actual samples of the phosphorous isotope, he showed how it could pass through human tissue and be checked for the whole term of its radioactivity by means of the Geiger counter, which is activated into granting or popping sounds by the emanations from the substance, and which can also count or measure these emanations.

Through the use of slides, Doctor Lawrence demonstrated the highly selective concentration of iodine in the thyroid gland, and how the total excretion of iodine in a five-day period is definitely increased in patients suffering with myxedema, a deficiency of the thyroid secretion. Another demonstration was made of the manner in which the radioactive iodine in the gland was traced for a number of days through the placing of the counter directly on the neck of the patient.

One demonstration of the manner in which radioactive substances are deposited in cancerous growths was made by Doctor Lawrence. Two mouse tumors, a lymphoma and a lymphosarcoma, which are practically indistinguishable,

both consisting of round cells and little stroma or framework, were treated. It was noted, however, that their phospho lipid turnover, after absorption of radioactive phosphorous, was quite different, the rate being much greater in the case of the lymphosarcoma.

Annual Conference of the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness, October 26-28, 1939.—With the hope that the headquarters of the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness will be the mecca for the prevention of blindness to workers in the United States during this time, the society is planning to hold its annual conference October 26, 27, and 28, so that those from distant points who may be planning to enjoy the World's Fair may perhaps make their plans so that they may at the same time participate in the program of the society.

Headquarters for the annual conference will be the Astor Hotel in New York City. The society will be glad to make reservations in advance at this or other adjacent hotels for anybody planning to participate.

It is hoped that the conference will bring together from many states physicians, teachers, nurses, social workers and those active in the various fields of sight conservation. Arrangements will be made for extending the facilities of the society's offices at Rockefeller Center, 50 West Fiftieth Street, to all visitors.

Press Clippings.—Some news items from the daily press on matters related to medical practice follow:

Doctors Win Anti-Trust Case

Sherman Act Doesn't Apply, Court Holds
Government's Suit Against American Medical Association Is Thrown Out in District of Columbia

Washington, July 26 (AP).—Justice James M. Proctor of the District of Columbia Federal Court today dismissed the Government anti-trust proceedings against the American Medical Association.

He held that the practice of medicine is a profession and that the Sherman Anti-Trust Act applies only to business and trades.

The Department of Justice had obtained indictments against the American Medical Association, three other medical organizations and twenty-one prominent physicians on the grounds that they had conspired to restrain trade by fighting a group system of medical care at flat monthly charges.

Today's action sustained the American Medical Association's demurrer to the indictment. Unless Justice Proctor's ruling is reversed by a higher court, it will have the effect of closing the case.

Discrimination Charged

The Government acted when the Group Health Association, Inc., protested that the District of Columbia Medical Society was discriminating against it. The group was formed here to provide low-cost medical care, especially for the lower income groups. It found that certain hospitals and doctors refused to accept patients referred to them by the group's own doctors.

The Government investigated circumstances of this alleged discrimination for eight weeks and then presented the case to the Grand Jury here. The indictments followed.

In arguing against the demurrer which the Medical Association promptly filed, the Government asserted that Anglo-American law reaching back to the fifteenth century had regulated medicine by the same laws as those applying to any trade. Trade, the Department of Justice attorneys declared, includes every occupation in which money is habitually received, under contract, in return for some value given.

The American Medical Association counsel contended that this definition of trade was too broad and if applied would encompass all business and professions to the point of "destroying all human activity." Such a broadening of power, the American Medical Association contended, was contrary to common law and the American Constitution.

The group argued that medicine was a profession, not a trade, and therefore does not come under the scope of the Sherman Trade Restraint Act. That was the contention that Justice Proctor upheld.

Department Will Appeal

The other organizations named in the indictment were the District of Columbia Medical Society, the Harris County (Houston, Tex.) Medical Society and the Washington Academy of Surgery.

Wendell Berge, first assistant to Anti-Trust Chief Thurman Arnold, said he assumed the decision would be appealed.

"An appeal seems to me to be a foregone conclusion," he said. "I can't imagine our resting on a lower court's decision in a case of this importance."—*San Francisco News*, July 26.

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Medics Triumph in United States Battle on "Trust"

Washington, July 26 (AP).—The American Medical Association won a sweeping victory over the Government today when a federal district court held that the Sherman Anti-Trust Act could not apply to the practice of medicine.

Justice James M. Proctor, ruling out an indictment in which the Justice Department charged the American Medical Association and fellow defendants restrained the "trade" of Group Health Association, Inc., a coöperative health association in the District of Columbia, said.

"Is medical practice a trade within the meaning of section three of the Sherman Act? In my opinion, it is not."

Justice Department officials, while not commenting, indicated an appeal would be asked.

Justice Proctor remarked at one point that the indictment as drawn "smacks" of a "highly colored, argumentative discourse," and at another point he said it was "afflicted with vague and uncertain statements."

In some instances, he added, material facts were entirely lacking.

The indictment had declared that the defendants "combined and conspired" to restrain trade by seeking to prevent group health from arranging for medical care and hospitalization; by restraining the organization from "obtaining by coöperative efforts" adequate medical care for its members; by "restraining the doctors serving on the medical staff of Group Health Association, Inc., in the pursuit of their callings"; by restraining other doctors from serving it, and by "restraining the Washington hospitals in the business of operating such hospitals."

The grand jury had charged that the organizations and physicians agreed to forbid group health doctors to practice in Washington hospitals; had denied consultations to group health physicians.—*San Francisco Call-Bulletin*, July 26.

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Doctors Win in Anti-Trust Suit Over Group Medicine Indictment Against Association Killed

U. S. to Appeal Decision of Washington, D. C., Court
By The Associated Press

Washington, July 26.—The Department of Justice suffered a major defeat today when a Federal district judge tossed out of court an indictment charging the American Medical Association, three other medical organizations and twenty-one prominent physicians with violating the anti-trust laws.

Justice James M. Proctor ruled that medicine is not a trade, but a learned profession, and therefore that the defendants could not be guilty of restraint of trade in their alleged activities against Group Health Association, Inc., a coöperative set-up to afford medical care on a prepaid basis to federal employees in the District of Columbia.

The judge also caustically criticized the indictment, using such words as "bad," "improper," "highly colored," "vague" and "uncertain."

Early Appeal

The Justice Department announced in a formal statement tonight that "every effort" would be made to get a Supreme Court decision on the district court's action "at the earliest possible moment."

In a formal statement, the Department said it was making its announcement "not for the purpose of criticizing the opinion, but for the reason that it is important to inform physicians generally that until the Supreme Court has acted the Government's prosecution policy toward boycotts in the medical profession is unchanged."

"None of the reasoning of the opinion persuades the Department that doctors are free to engage in practices which would be illegal if they belonged to some other calling," the statement said.

Prosecution Looms

"In addition, any further restraints of the character included in the indictment will also be subject to prosecution."

"It is important the physicians not be misled on this point for the reason that the district court opinion is not a binding authority on other judges."